



Storm Water Task Force Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2020

6:30 pm

Attendees	
Dave Odom – Councilman	Ron Costa – Borough Resident
Paul Dern – Councilman	Rick Vigno – Borough Resident
Bob Mitall – Borough Engineer	Carlos Escalante – Borough Resident
Dave Reynolds – Borough Resident	Dave Vento – Councilman
Mike Thomas – Borough Manager	Mike Diguilio – Municipal/Water Authority
Bill Bonura – Municipal/Water Authority	Carey Cole – Borough Resident*

*Not Present

1. Update on Storm Water Work Completed Since the Last Meeting

The Borough performed work on Anderson Ave the week of February 10th to include clearing debris and vegetation 50ft upstream and downstream of the culvert. In the course of performing the work, personnel discovered water, gas and sewer lines that run underneath the culvert encased in concrete. This reduces the potential options for improving the water flow going through the culvert as there is no ability make the area deeper without relocating the lines.

One of the problems with the storm water in that area is the water runoff from the turnpike which may be addressed by contacting the Turnpike Commission to see if they are able to make any modifications to prevent the water run-off from depositing in the area that prevents normal water flow.

2. Review Borough Engineer Community Storm Water Issues List

- a. The task force reviewed the finalized list of recommendations from the Borough Engineer. These impacted areas from the July 2019 flooding event were discussed during the January 23rd task force meeting and grouped the projects by area to further develop recommendations for

Council action. The following summarizes the identified problem within the respective areas and includes interim solutions with estimated completion dates and long term solutions for each effected area.

- **Anderson Ave**

Problem: Below the culvert a second channel bisects the main channel. The source of this second channel is primarily from the turnpike. The juncture of these two channels is not hydraulically efficient.

Proposed Solutions:

- Interim Solution - Modify the water flow coming from the turnpike to divert it from a 90 degree to a 45 degree. ECD: Jun 1.
- Long Term Solution - Conduct a study to determine what the anticipated peak flows are at the culvert and then examine the capacity of the culvert. This effort is referred to as Hydrologic & Hydraulic (H&H) study. Possible remedies could include removal of sediment in the culvert or replacing it with a larger one.

- **Leroy St.**

Problem: The lower part of this street has had a history of flooding. The source is usually from a culvert crossing a few hundred feet up from Unity Center Road. This culvert accepts flow from College Ave and part of Frankstown acres. Past problems include plugging of this culvert by debris being washed from above. An H&H study should be conducted to determine if the culvert is properly sized. If so, all that may be needed is a debris catch system to protect the culvert opening.

Proposed Solutions:

- Interim Solution - Install debris catch system. ECD: May 1.
- Long Term Solution - Investigate installation of retention pond.

- **Oblock/Keywest/Pine Valley**

Problem: Oblock Road - At the intersection of Keywest and Oblock there is substantial flooding due to debris plugging the culvert. Further investigation into corresponding issues affecting the Pine Valley area is in progress.

Proposed Solutions:

- Interim Solution - Investigate possibility of diverting storm water from the stream to the adjacent detention pond. ECD: Jun 1.
- Long Term Solution – Conduct an H&H study to ensure the storm sewers are adequately sized and an overflow emergency floodway provided. Determine suitable land development options to improve area storm water flow. Ensure an educational program includes information on the dangers of dumping debris near water channels.

- **Nassau Dr.**

Problem: Street flooding occurs at a low point at 158 Nassau. This low point collects water from several adjacent streets and Saltsburg Road. Double inlets exist on both sides of the street at the low point. It has been reported that these inlets often get plugged with debris. The problem may also be the insufficient hydraulic capacity of the culvert crossing the road at this low point.

Proposed Solutions:

- Interim Solution – Replace deteriorated pipe on the lower side of Nassau. Replace beehive grate with headwall between Nassau and Saltsburg. Swale the area on the bottom of Nassau drive near the right of way. ECD: Apr 1.
- Long Term Solution – Investigate the potential for building a retention pond between Saltsburg and Nassau.

b. Identity Solutions for Recommendation to Council for March

Storm Water Task Force will recommend the aforementioned interim solutions to Council for action.

3. Task Force materials for future meetings

- a. Mapping (Borough-wide and Watersheds)
 - i. Aerial
 - ii. Watershed Boundaries
 - iii. Streets
 - iv. Waterways
 - v. Parcel Boundaries
 - vi. Basin Locations
- b. Stream Characteristics
- c. Threat Assessment
- d. Secondary Impacts

Topic Summary: Task Force members indicated it would be beneficial to have the listed items above available during meetings. Much of this information is available via the GIS mapping system. GIS mappings of the Borough areas should be displayed during meetings and the Borough should determine if access to the GIS system can be linked from the Borough website and made available to the public.

4. Guest Speakers for Future Meetings

- a. Grant Opportunities (Growing Greener, DCNR, DEP)
- b. Public Involvement Techniques
- c. State Legislators
- d. Low Hanging Fruit - Storm Water Basin Retrofits

Topic Summary: Discussion on the potential to obtain grants for storm water projects was conducted. The Borough manager indicated that the process to obtain state grant funds is very formalized and required support from state representatives. The Borough received approximately \$400K in funds for 2019 projects and \$200K for 2020.

5. Public Involvement Strategy

- a. Community - Internet Based Survey
 - i. Survey Monkey
 - ii. WikiMaps
- b. Open House Format - Displays by Watershed
- c. Watershed Fact Sheet

d. Task Force Email

Topic Summary: Task Force members discussed potential ways to improve public involvement which could be done using Internet based collaboration and survey tools like Survey Monkey. Members of the Task Force also indicated the need to begin public meetings to present information on the work conducted by the task force to date. The initial periodicity for these meetings was determined to be quarterly. The first quarterly meeting with the public is tentatively scheduled for Thursday April 23rd. Task Force members indicated the potential to have the meetings conducted by a neutral facilitator if possible. During the February Council Voting meeting, a resident inquired into who currently received emails that are directed to the storm water email address: plumstormwatertaskforce@plumboro.com. At the time, only three councilmen were on distribution for the email address. It was recommended that the entire task force receive the emails. All Task Force members agreed to have their emails added to the distribution list.

6. Consideration of Outside Consulting Services

Topic Summary: Consideration of involving outside consulting services like the Army Corps of Engineers was discussed. On February 17th, Plum Council contacted Public Relations Consultant Carrie DelRosso regarding actions taken by Oakmont to address storm water issues. DelRosso, who was also contacted by a Borough resident regarding the matter, contacted Oakmont Borough Manager (Scot Fodi) and requested he provide a summary for the Task Force of Oakmont's storm water mitigation efforts in Plum Creek and their work with the Army Corps of Engineers. The Oakmont Borough Manager indicated that as recent as two weeks ago the Army Corps of Engineers discussed the issues of Plum Creek and what Oakmont wishes to achieve. The representative from the Army Corps of Engineers explained the goals of Oakmont were not achievements the Corps could assist Oakmont with and recommended working with either PEMA and/or the DEP as the Corps focuses on impacts to river traffic channels. The Task Force indicated that further discussion and engagement of PEMA and/or DEP was warranted.

7. Alternative Strategies

Topic Summary: No alternative strategies discussed.

8. Frequency and Length of Meetings

Topic Summary: Is once a month enough? Most task force members agreed monthly for now was sufficient. It was also agreed upon that best effort will be made to have future agendas and meeting minutes posted to the website the Monday before and after each task force meeting.

- Determine Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday, March 26th and the April meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 16th.